

## ***Downtown***

# ***At a Glance***

***January 2002***



**Anderson Hill Redevelopment Project (formerly SCIP II)** The first three (3) units in the second phase of the project are nearing completion. An additional ten (10) units will be under construction within the next four (4) months. Predevelopment activities have begun on the fifteen (15) unit townhouse development phase of the project. Development variances were granted to the project at the January meeting of the Board of Adjustment. Construction is scheduled to begin on this phase by the end of 2002. Up to thirty (30) home ownership units and thirty (30) rental units will be built in the next two years.

**Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (Interim)** On August 15, 2001, the ARCH moved to an interim location at 400 Nueces. The City added an overnight shelter program for 73 men at the interim site and amended the Capital Area Homeless Alliance's contract to include operation of the shelter. The shelter has been operating at full capacity since it opened.

**Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (Permanent)** The facility will be named the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH). It will be an expansion of the current ARCH, but it will remain a place where people in homeless situations can access numerous resources to help them work toward self-sufficiency.

The City will build the facility and will provide funding for operations. The City's Primary Care Department will operate the health clinic. A request for proposals will be released in mid-2002 to solicit an operator to serve as the facility manager.

The physical design of the facility is nearing completion. The construction of the project will be put out for bid in February of 2002. The expected date of completion for building the facility is July of 2003. The estimated cost of the project is approximately \$8.1 million.

**Convention Center Expansion**

The exterior skin and completion of the west elevation on Trinity is almost complete, at which time the building will be completely enclosed. Interior finishes are well underway, working east to west (the building is two blocks wide). The roof, mechanical, electrical and plumbing systems are substantially complete. Estimated date of Substantial Completion is March 29, 2002.

# At a Glance

## *continued*



### Downtown Development Initiatives

The Heritage Society of Austin is rewriting and updating their report *Heritage Austin: A Community Value Based Vision*. This effort will be completed by May 1, 2002.

### Downtown Great Streets Master Plan

Remaining Calendar:

Winter 2002: Integration of staff recommendations for the Great Streets Master Plan, Downtown Access & Mobility Plan and the Downtown Austin Comprehensive Parking Study.

Spring: City Boards and Commissions Review

Summer: Possible City Council Adoption

### Downtown Public Improvement District

The City Council approved the FY 2002/2003 Service Plan and Budget for the Downtown Austin Alliance and the PID Assessment Role in December 2001.

### Lance Armstrong Bikeway

Preliminary design and final route alignments for the Lance Armstrong Bikeway are complete for the sections west and east of the Central Business District. The eastern section begins at Levander Loop at U.S. 183 and enters Downtown along the 4th street corridor after crossing under IH-35. The western end of the Bikeway is from Shoal Creek to the junction of Veterans Drive and Lake Austin Boulevard. Alignment for the center portion of the Bikeway, from IH-35 to Shoal Creek is still being determined. At issue is which east-west Downtown street would serve as the most direct, practical and safe bicycle route while considering other emerging projects such as the Great Streets plan, the Second Street Retail District plan, the possible Rapid Transit line, and others.

The Lance Armstrong Bikeway was originally planned to follow 3rd Street. But due to changes in automobile traffic flow resulting from the planned Second Street Retail District and the Great Streets project, 3rd Street is now unsuitable for the Bikeway. Among other streets, 4th Street is being considered for the project. City staff in the Transportation, Planning and Sustainability Department will continue to work on the Downtown alignment over the next few months to determine the best route for the Lance Armstrong Bikeway.

### Mexican-American Cultural Center (MACC)

Due to higher than expected cost estimates and utility conflicts, we have lost some time, but it has helped answer many questions in our site development design. The Design Development Phase of Phase I will start on January 25th. It is hoped Construction Documents will start in April.

### New City Hall and Public Plaza

In March 2000, the City Council selected the Austin firm of Cotera, Kolar, Negrete and Reed Architects with Antoine Predock, FAIA of Albuquerque, New Mexico as the Lead Designer. Council approved the Schematic Design for the New City Hall and Public Plaza in May 2001. Construction of the underground parking garage began in April 2001. Construction of the City Hall and Plaza is scheduled to begin in August 2002.



### Republic Square

In October, 2001, a landscape architectural firm, TBG Partners, was hired to do a conceptual design for the redevelopment of Republic Square. The design will be utilized by the Austin Parks Foundation for fund raising. TBG Partners will work in concert with Jesus Moroles, an internationally known sculptor. Mr. Moroles has been commissioned by the Texas Commission on the Arts (TCA) to do an artistic piece for the park. TCA will also create a cultural endowment in order to sustain the artistic elements of the park.

In November 2001, a design charrette was held which attracted a variety of interested community leaders. Based on this input, preliminary designs are in progress. During December, 2001, and January 2002, various boards and commissions have been updated on the progress of the design ideas for Republic Square. These included the Historic Landmark Commission, the Design Commission, the Downtown Commission, and the Land and Facilities subcommittee of the Parks and Recreation Board. The Austin Parks Foundation has also implemented a historic research effort for Republic Square, which will ultimately be used for historical interpretation of the park.

It is anticipated that a draft park design will be completed in April 2002. This design will then be available for review and comment by all interested parties.

### Seaholm Power Plant Reuse

Currently the status of on-site decommissioning and remediation activities to date are: The removal of all equipment from the Turbine Generator Building, Water Intake Structure and the old Pump Room 100 % complete. Asbestos abatement is 98% complete. Lead based paint abatement of all the stacks is 100% complete. Repainting of the stacks is still on-going. PCB and mercury contamination removal has been delayed and is now scheduled to be completed in 2002 under a new contract.

A final draft of the Seaholm District Master Plan has been prepared to incorporate comments from boards and Commissions and a special Pedestrian and Bicycle stakeholder meeting. The Seaholm District Master Plan will be presented to City Council for consideration of adoption in February/ March 2002.

### Town Lake Waterfront Overlay District

City staff is developing a plan for the implementation of most of the report's recommendations and is hopeful that a draft ordinance amendment will be presented to Council this summer.